

U.S.S.N. 09/618,500

Atty. Docket No. RPC 0515 PUS

According to a third embodiment of the present invention, a container (210) is provided which is adapted to receive an inner receptacle arranged to hold merchandise therein. The container (210) includes a base (212) including a peripheral frame portion (230), and a first pair of opposed walls (214, 216) integrally formed with and extending upwardly from the peripheral frame portion (230). In addition, a second pair of opposed walls (218, 220) is integrally formed with and extends upwardly from the peripheral frame portion (230) and is integrally formed with the first pair of opposed walls (214, 216), where the first and second pairs of opposed walls (214, 216, 218, 220) and the base (212) define a compartment area (222) for removably receiving and supporting the inner receptacle therein (see, for example, p. 15, line 28 - p. 16, line 20; FIGS. 21-24).

VI. ISSUES

1. Whether claims 14-16 and 18-23 are unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,395,542 issued to Fordon ("Fordon") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

2. Whether claim 14 is unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,973,692 issued to Cloyd ("Cloyd") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

3. Whether claims 1-9, 12-13, and 24-32 are unpatentable over Fordon in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,056 issued to Overholt ("Overholt") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

4. Whether claim 15 is unpatentable over Cloyd in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,796,342 issued to Sanders ("Sanders") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

5. Whether claim 16 is unpatentable over Cloyd in view of Sanders and further in view of Fordon under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).